



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FUNDING TO PILOT KNOB RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 1

Greg Branum, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Missouri, announced \$2,522,200 in funding to Pilot Knob Rural Water District No. 1. A Mock Check ceremony was held on April 24, 2006, in conjunction with the national celebration of Earth Day. The Mock Check represents approval of \$1,240,000 loan funds and \$1,282,200 grant funds to be used to construct a complete water supply storage and distribution system. The Missouri Department of Economic Development providing \$349,000 in funding and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources provided \$300,000. Branum stated, "This project is truly a partnership effort between local, state, and federal government. The ability of everyone to work together for the benefit of the District's customers is how government should and is working."



"Clean water is critical to the health of the environment and economy," said Senator Kit Bond. "Today's funds will go a long way in meeting this community's water needs. I will continue to work with the USDA and local leaders in our efforts to improve the quality of life for families in Pilot Knob."

"This is great news for the people in Pilot Knob and the surrounding communities," said U.S. Sen. Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. "The funding will be used to upgrade and expand the water distribution systems currently in place to provide a safe and clean water source for the citizens in the area. This is an example of how the federal government is partnering with the local community to meet the needs of area residents."

"Water supply is a critical part of our infrastructure in rural America and in rural Missouri. Pilot Knob will greatly benefit from the completion of this project. I want to thank everyone who is working so hard at every level of government to identify projects like theses to invest in our rural communities, and especially the people in Pilot Knob who are putting their best efforts toward completion of this project. I am proud to work alongside U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Jim Talent in the Congress to support improvements just like this one, and I hope to have the future opportunity to congratulate USDA Rural Development on similar successes," U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson said.

Doyle Lance, the water district board president, indicated that the construction of the Doe Run water expansion project is progressing very well. “The water main is now nearly complete along Hildebrecht road from the well site into Doe Run. I would personally like to thank all the residents who have supported the water district over the years along with the extended effort of the USDA Rural Development staff in Farmington, who provided the extra funding to make this project a reality. I also want to thank the people at the Southeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission for their help in securing the Community Development Block Grant and the Department of Natural Resources for their much needed financial assistance.” Lance added that the “water treatment plant under construction is a state of the art facility and will ensure that you will be getting high quality drinking water. We will need the continued support of the residents of the area to assure we can meet all of our financial obligations with USDA Rural Development and to operate and maintain the water system so it will benefit our customers for years to come”

Branum added, “Appreciation is extended to U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. Economic development, the creation of jobs and funding essential services mirror the Agency’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of increasing economic opportunity in rural communities and improving the quality of life of rural residents”.

Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Kevin Hinkebein, Rural Development Manager, at 812 Progress Dr. Farmington, Missouri 63640 or by calling (573) 756-6413 extension 4.

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